

NEAR TO THE GRAVE

The Plumed Knight Slowly Dying.

HE SUFFERS THREE RELAPSES

Friends and Relatives Summoned to Him Bedside to Watch the Ebb of Life's Current.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—At 2 o'clock all was quiet at the Blaine mansion. But one light, that in the sick chamber, was visible.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—The news that James G. Blaine had once more passed into the valley of the shadow of death, and that even those who had been most sanguine in anticipation, now hold no hope of his recovery, became known in Washington by means of press bulletins, and to the country at large early this morning. Notwithstanding the hopeful views of the family and the attending physicians, who, by their direction, had from time to time given out information for publication, no expectation of Mr. Blaine's ultimate recovery has been entertained by any one in a position to acquire knowledge of the real facts of his case since the issue of the significant bulletin of December 17, which said: "Mr. Blaine has been suffering for some time past with symptoms of impaired general health." But which did not clearly indicate the disease of any particular organ.

Evidence of local organic disease has been manifested recently, and it is believed his present condition is due to this cause. While there is nothing in the disease to warrant the fear of any very rapid progress, he has shown within a month past more signs of serious illness than before. It is hoped that this aggravation may pass, but no positive statement can now be made as to changes which may take place from day to day.

That Sudden Failure.

Next day, Sunday, December 19, just three weeks ago, there occurred that sudden failure of the heart's action which for four hours left the patient trembling on the verge of death, and which broke down much of the reticence and suppression of facts that had heretofore been maintained, and elicited admissions which precluded any hope of recovery or even of any material amelioration of his condition. It is a significant indication of the extent to which the whole country has been in the prolonged fight against death of its distinguished citizen that since that day the press wires leading from Washington to the great news centers of the country have never for one single moment remained unattended. Night and day operators and reporters have remained on duty, relieving each other without cessation, and at stated intervals every night bulletins have been wired to indicate the state of the case, and change for the worse had set in. May more or less well founded assertions of failing vitality and dangerous relapses have since then found publicity, but none have been officially admitted until last night. On the contrary, the daily statements of the sick statesman's condition have been so progressively on a scale of "a little better," every morning, that they have been grounded on a substantial basis, would long since have landed the invalid on a pinnacle of robust health.

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The powerful heart restorative applied by the doctors, which are stated to have been the most potent known to medical science, were more steady in lying and making more steady the feeble and fitful pulsations of the heart, so that by the time the churchgoers passed the family residence on Lafayette square, Mr. Blaine's condition was a shade better. He was still, however, so weak and prostrated that the doctors did not dare to leave him at the same time fearing another attack and that the final summons might come at any moment.

Dr. Hyatt Sent For.

At 7 o'clock Dr. Hyatt, the other physician, was summoned. At 8 Dr. Johnston left the house and hurried through Lafayette park on his way to breakfast at his home a few blocks away. To a reporter who intercepted him, Dr. Johnston said that Mr. Blaine at that hour was in a really dangerous condition. Dr. Johnston is a very conservative man and the most decided statement he has ever made respecting Mr. Blaine, Mr. Blaine, he said, began to grow weaker yesterday afternoon and his condition grew worse with the coming of the night. Mr. Blaine

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Representative and Mrs. Hitt, intimate personal friends of the family, were about the earliest callers of the day. They learned from members of the family that Mr. Blaine had passed a very bad night and that the worst was to be feared and then went away. Mr. Hitt was heartbroken at the news his face showed plainly the grief he felt at the coming dissolution of his long friendship. He said that he had been told that Mr. Blaine had rallied from the temporary depression which occurred during the night and both the family and the physicians hoped he might recover some of the lost ground. Mr. Hitt's sorrow fully admitted that he did not think either Mrs. Blaine or other members of the family hoped for an ultimate recovery, and said that Mrs. Blaine was evidently prepared for the worst. Mr. Robert Blaine, a brother of the sick man, called about 11 o'clock and remained on the porch for some of his visits on previous days. Subsequent to leaving the house he said that the family felt more hopeful than earlier in the morning. His brother, however, was quite low, and he did not think it would be for material improvement to manifest itself.

Send for Absent Relatives.

Soon after 1 o'clock an intimate friend of the family left the residence and was driven to the Western Union telegraph office, where telegrams were sent to relatives of the family announcing the latest state of the illness. These stated, it is understood, that the family without hope that Mr. Blaine would recover.

Secretary Foster called at the house shortly before 1 o'clock. He remained about fifteen minutes, and on leaving stated that Mr. Blaine was somewhat improved, and was better than he was last night.

Die Like a Philosopher.

A warm personal friend of Mr. Blaine's, and one who has access to what transpires in the sick room, said this afternoon: Mr. Blaine has not had a connected thought for thirty days past. The heart, while nourishing organs, has not been strong enough to furnish the necessary blood for the brain. Hence it is that, like the ancient sage, Mr. Blaine has been slowly perishing at the top. But Mr. Blaine dies like a philosopher at last, distasteful to the sufferer of death has been to him in other and stronger days. A few weeks since he called his family about him and calmly told them that he did not expect to recover. He was in full possession of his faculties and went over his affairs in detail, and said to each of his children all he had to say. In the intervening period, the members of the family have gradually become reconciled to the end which is impending. When the history is written of Mr. Blaine's illness, the devotion of his wife and mother will be one of its interesting chapters. No one except the inmates of the family are able to appreciate her fidelity and watchfulness and courage. Mrs. Blaine remained at the bedside of her husband over his illness, and in the face of danger and acting promptly in every case of emergency. Through all the stages of despondence and grief which Mr. Blaine has passed through of late she has been at his side to cheer and to strengthen him.

Mr. Blaine's Relatives.

All the prominent families were coming and going from the Blaine mansion, news of his dangerous condition having traveled rapidly in official and social circles.

Towards the evening Mr. Blaine rallied slightly from his attack of the morning. This rally was effected by the administering of nitro glycerine to stimulate the action of the heart, which, it is believed, is almost clogged by uraemic poisoning. This drug is the most powerful known to medical science and is never used except on desperate cases. It is administered in small doses and late this afternoon. After the noon hour Mr. Blaine gradually fell into a semi-stupor, his sleep becoming more restful as it continued, and at 1 o'clock Dr. Johnston said that Mr. Blaine's condition showed slight improvement over the morning and noon time. He left the house at 5 o'clock. Dr. Hyatt coming almost immediately.

Vice-President Morton Calls.

Vice-President Morton saw the members of the family and said they did not dare hope for any permanent improvement did not express themselves as anticipating any immediate collapse. Similar information was given other close friends by members of the family. Yesterday evening into twilight and the shades of night fell upon the great red mansion, a dim light appeared in the sick room on the third floor south; visitors became fewer, and the people on the street hurried by the house in the whispering cord, only stopping a moment to ask of his condition from the newsmen men about the house.

He Had Three Relapses.

It is ascertained that there were three distinct relapses during the night. At 1 a. m. when he was first seized with heart failure, his physicians really thought the end had come. But by the aid of stimulants, chaffing and the usual remedies he rallied. He soon after, however, relapsed into a stupor. Suddenly at 5 o'clock this morning he opened his eyes, which were as clear as they ever were, and seeing his physician at his side, exclaimed: "Doctor, I am glad you have come." The tones of his voice were remarkably clear and strong for a man almost in extremity. Five minutes later he sank again into a stupor, and thirty minutes later still he had a second attack of heart failure. Strange to say he again rallied, only to be shortly the third time three hours

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IN AN ICY GRASP

River Boats Crushed Between Big Ice Floes.

HALF MILLION DOLLARS LOST

Three Million Tons of Ice Starts for the Gulf of Mexico via the Ohio River.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 8.—It requires a stretch of the imagination to picture three million tons of ice moving at five miles an hour down the Ohio river. The ice in forming a gorge in the river may be six feet thick and more or less solid. It is on the banks of the river, seated by curving banks, holds it stationary. The current of a rising stream, especially at the present stage of the river (twenty feet and rising), is constant force, tending to tear the gorge loose. Floating ice affords another power to tear the gorge from the banks.

All steamers on the river at the port of Cincinnati have been keeping up steam. Coal fleets have been covered with men night and day. At 2 o'clock this afternoon this mighty glacier of 3,000,000 tons began to move with a horrible groan, and the hills echoed with terrific screaming steam whistles. Nineteen steamers and a hundred coal barges, empty or loaded, had but two or three inches of oak plank to present resistance to this ponderous aggregation of power.

Its Awful Force.

Again and again the ponderous chains that held the steamers and the wharf boats to their moorings were parted and as often skillful hands repaired them. By 9 o'clock tonight all apparent danger to the steamers at the landing was over. The gorge had passed and the river was comparatively clear. One tow-boat, the Matheson, owned by Marmet & Co., valued at \$50,000, was sunk and destroyed. Below the destruction of coal barges and other property from accounts at this hour (10 p. m.) has been terrible. The gorge that moved passed Cincinnati extended from Coney Island above the mouth of the Little Miami to below Anderson's ferry, a distance of nearly fifteen miles.

For ten miles below this the water is clear and open. Then came another gorge, beginning at the mouth of the Great Miami, extending to below Lawrenceburg. This lower gorge with its doomed coal fleets crashed into it and tore it out, and now both are grinding their way with a terrific roaring far down the Ohio river at the rate of five miles an hour. It is impossible to get details tonight. The approximate destruction of coal fleets are as follows: Forty-five loaded barges and sixty empty barges, \$300,000. This includes boats that were carried away Friday. The heaviest losers are the Winfield companies; thirty full barges and eleven empties.

SE FADING PHOTOGRAPHS.

The Sick Scheme of Innocent Chinaman to Evade the Law.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 8.—A clever scheme of the wily Chinaman to evade the Chinese registration act has been discovered by the government detectives in this city. While passing through "Chinatown" the other day the detective noticed a Chinaman unloading photographic apparatus from a wagon. As cameras do not usually form a part of the furniture of the homes of Chinese of this city, the detective's suspicions were aroused. He followed up his man, and in a few days had learned the essential details of the plan. The Chinese have taken to avoid the registration act. The act requires the Chinese to have their pictures taken and to file them at the office of the internal revenue collector. The picture is pasted on the certificate of registration, and a Chinaman can be compelled to go before the collector and be identified by his photograph if any question of his legal right to be in this country is raised.

THE PHILADELPHIA CHINAMAN.

The Philadelphia Chinaman with the camera has been taking lessons in photography and in the art of using a preparation that will cause a photograph to grow dim and fade within a year. When the registration act goes into force next May the Chinese of Philadelphia will have their artistic countrymen photograph them, and after applying this fading preparation to the picture it will be filed with the collector. Within a year the picture will be so dim that it will be almost unrecognizable, and collector Brooks will be unable to tell whether the man before him is the original of the photograph or a recent importation from China. It is said the scheme has been communicated to the Chinese in all the large cities of the country and that photography is being zealously studied by the alien inhabitants.

HIS AIM WAS POOR.

The Father of a Girl Attempts to Kill Her Alleged Ravishers.

DENVER, Colo., Jan. 8.—The case of Seth G. Morgan, formerly business manager of the Davenport Commercial Gazette, accused of criminally assaulting little Jessie Montgomery in his law office in this city, culminated yesterday in a shooting affair, the father of the wronged girl firing three shots at Morgan, none of which took effect. Montgomery is in jail and Morgan has disappeared. Morgan was arrested yesterday on a charge of criminal assault on the girl, sworn to by Miss Montgomery. He was soon after released on bail. When officers went to Montgomery's office they found the young girl there and the story as published this morning so wrought up Mr. Montgomery that he took a revolver and started out to kill Morgan, but for his poor aim, a tragedy would have resulted. The town of Highlands in which the parties live is terribly worked up over the affair and Morgan will not dare show himself in the present condition of public mind.

SCHWEINFURTH INSANE.

Charitable Construction of a Winter Fats On the False Messiah's Works. Brooklyn, Ill., Jan. 8.—George Jacob Schweinfurth has become a study for literary people from a medical standpoint. Yesterday a novelist and writer on semi-medical topics and who has quite a reputation in the literary world, visited Schweinfurth in his heaven near here with a view to

HE HAS HIS NERVE

Corbett Beats Sellers Coasting Financial Horoscope.

MITCHELL ANXIOUS TO FIGHT

The Champion Unders a Scheme Whence He Shines the Mirror of His Bank-Tanking.

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—Tomorrow Champion Corbett and his manager William A. Brady will meet the president of the Corbett Theatrical and Pavilion company. It is likely that the great pugilist, after certain points relating to his financial end in the scheme are smoothed over, will sign a contract to appear every day during the progress of the world's fair.

Corbett is Certain that Chatter Mitchell Means Business and is Confident that after his term of imprisonment expires the Englishman will seek to America and challenge him for the championship.

"You see," he said to a reporter this evening, "Mitchell will have to do something. He is not popular in England and he is naturally anxious to fight me as the best man living. If he is defeated in a long and hard fight his standing will not be hurt and he can get on other matches. Then he stands a show of winning. The man who whips Mitchell will, in my estimation, be the most popular fighter in the country. I had my way I would prefer Jackson. It was with him that I fought my first fight in a club and naturally I would prefer him, but looking at the matter from a business standpoint, Mitchell is the man for me to meet.

His Financial Ability.

"I, as the champion, will demand a purse of \$75,000. If he is in the country will offer that amount I want, under certain conditions, offer it myself. I will give to the Coney Island Athletic club or the Olympic club of New Orleans, \$25,000 as a gift, they to guarantee that the fight will not be interfered with and I will then hang up a purse of \$75,000 for a final fight between Mitchell and myself, the winner to take \$75,000 and the loser \$5,000. For the \$25,000 the club accepting the proposition is to turn over to me the entire receipts of \$5,000 for the fight. I know that the Coney Island club can be fitted to hold 10,000 persons who will pay \$20 each for admission to see a fight between Mitchell and myself. That would mean \$200,000 as a starter. The sale of the seats and boxes ought to swell the total to at least \$200,000. Out of this I could pay the club \$25,000 and hand over the purse to Mitchell and still clear a handsome sum. In addition to the purse I would want to wager from \$10,000 to \$15,000 on the side."

Fighters Looking for Game.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 8.—President Harrison of the Pacific Athletic club has made an offer of \$5,000 for a final contest between Joe Corbett and either Peter Maher or Jim Daly, Corbett's late sparring partner. "Patsy" Davies, Chojnski and Peter Jackson will go east in three weeks. Davies says that he will make an effort in behalf of Jackson to have Corbett agree to fight the colored champion.

PIONEER PROSPECTORS.

Black Hills Miners Talk of "Grab Stake" Days. DEADWOOD, S. D., Jan. 8.—The fourth annual meeting and banquet of the Association of Black Hills Pioneers was held in this city last night. The attendance numbered upward of 300, and members of the association were in evidence in great numbers. The city has been in sight of a city or town since the meeting of a year ago. In the general discussion it was clearly shown that Schotze men are still actively engaged in prospecting, and have discovered in the past year the size number of valuable deposits and them. The language of one of them, "the Black Hills have hardly been scratched."

This Association is composed exclusively of men who came into the Black Hills prior to January 1, 1877, and has a membership of 300.

Two Passengers Killed.

MONTREAL, Jan. 8.—An express train running at the rate of fifty miles an hour crashed into a street car crowded with passengers at the St. Henri crossing last night. The crash was so sudden and so violent that the street car driver, was instantly killed. Action Latulippe, a passenger, was so seriously injured that he will probably die. There were twenty or more, escaped without serious injury. The safety gate at the crossing was down at the time, but the car horses were going so fast the driver could not stop them.

Silver Mines Closing Down.

DENVER, Colo., Jan. 8.—The closing down of the Rico Aspen consolidated group of mines at Rico has caused a sensation in mining and financial circles. Prominent miners all agree that the step is the result of the depreciation of silver and the high wages paid to miners. It is understood that principal operators have practically agreed to close their mines unless silver advances. In case this action is taken thousands of men will be deprived of a chance to earn a living, and Colorado will enter her first serious state of financial depression.

Loganport Gas War.

LOGANSPORT, Ind., Jan. 8.—For the past two weeks the pressure of natural gas has been so low that the consumers were compelled to resort to wood or coal. The gas company's inspectors now picking their rounds found that a large number of consumers have bored out the connecting pipe called the mixer, thereby allowing a larger flow of gas. Yesterday the company commenced shutting off gas from all consumers who have tampered with the mixers, and it is predicted that several hundred consumers will soon be without gas.

Two Legs and an Arm Left.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Jan. 8.—Michael DeFronzo and James DeFronzo, Italians, were blasting out a well at New London yesterday afternoon when they were blown to pieces by dynamite which exploded unexpectedly. Nothing but two legs and a single arm were left of them.

The Medical society of Berlin has made M. Pastor an honorary member.